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BOOK REVIEWS

Sun Circles and Human Hands: The Southeastern Indians Art and Industries. Edited by Emma Lila Fundaburk and Mary Douglass Fundaburk Foreman. (Luverne, Alabama, 1957. 232 pp. Plates, bibliography, index. $7.50.)

Two OF THE MORE distinctive ritual design motifs of the prehistoric Southeastern Indians form an appropriate title for this pictorial survey of the archeology of our region. This is a different book, an unusual book, and above all an interesting book.

Essentially it is a picture book covering the crafts, decorative art, and symbolism of the area. The emphasis is on archeology from the earliest time to the historic period, with some use of more recent Indian material and depictions of Indians by the early European explorers to complement the prehistoric picture.

Chapters on Stone and Copper Work, Pottery, Wood, and Animal Products (Bone, Antler Shell) all depict a wide coverage of crafts. While art styles and designs are incidentally presented in the consideration of other topics, a special chapter is devoted to Symbolism. Here a great variety of design motifs, especially those associated with the Southern Cult are illustrated. This probably represents the greatest concentration of these motifs in a single publication.

The introductory chapter and some of the plate captions were written by Miss Fundaburk; the remainder of the text and captions, all of which occupy less than half of the total pages, is a composite of short and long quotations from the work of many writers on the area. As a result the text is uneven in presentation, and unfortunately it fails to present an integrated summary of Southeastern archeology.

However, the real value of the book, and it is considerable, lies in the illustrations. In pure photographic value almost all are excellent in quality and reproduced on an adequate scale on fine paper. Here we have brought together for the first time the largest cross section of Southeastern material culture. Few local specialists have complaint that their area has been slighted.

For the casual reader or amateur archeologist this pictorial assemblage will open a whole new world. Most of the specimens

illustrated are familiar to the professional, yet to have some of these items brought together for the first time is illuminating. In this respect one major contribution of the volume is its coverage of Alabama. Little material on this state has been published before and most of that in obscure journals. The reviewer, at least, has found the material here very helpful.

The Florida reader will find his state well represented. One whole chapter is devoted to the exotic wooden material from Key Marco, including pictures of specimens, and long quotations from Cushing's little known report. Other aspects of the state are also considered, and the coverage of wooden artifacts is recent enough to include the newly discovered Owl "totem pole" from the St. Johns River.

For artists and designers this book will provide an unending source of authentic material, for the amateur scholar and collector it will provide abundant comparative material, and for the general reader an awareness of the richness of our aboriginal heritage. I would strongly recommend that this book be placed in every school and public library in Florida. It will answer many of the questions that are posed every day to teachers and librarians.

The editors should be complimented on the considerable task of gathering so much material from many sources and organizing it so well. Not the least is the excellent design and format of the book. It is esthetically pleasing and easy to read and handle. We can look forward with much anticipation to the editor's next book - the Southeastern Indians as seen pictorially by the early travelers and explorers.

JOHN M. GOGGIN

University of Florida

The Travels of William Bartram. Naturalist's Edition. Edited by Francis Harper. (New Haven, Yale University Press. 1958. 727 pp. Maps, illustrations, bibliography, annotated index, general index. $8.50)

THE LABORS OF A REVIEWER entail many more problems than reading a book and writing something about it. The above work haunted this reviewer for almost a month and the present report represents more searching and re-evaluation of opinions than six

books should provoke. Part of the strain comes from the fact that the present reviewer is an historian and not a botanist or an ornithologist. But the long reading of books does serve as a basis of judgment on this particular book.

The present volume is not a run of the mill production. Its 727 pages contain a great deal more than merely another edition of Bartram's *Travels.* For Mr. Harper, the work is a capstone of an interest of forty-odd years in Bartram and the area of the *Travels*. He retraced the Bartram journeys and laboriously located and collated supporting scholarship around the classic which is still the reason for the book. Of course, Harper had the inside track to produce such a work as he did. Being in the Bartram Association, he was in a fine position to promote his life's ambition and he worked hard and well toward his goal. He received two grants for the field work necessary for his book. A grant from the Penrose Fund of the American Philosophical Society financed field trips in 1939 and 1940. A two-year Guggenheim fellowship in 1950-2 aided in the editorial phases of the book. Cost of printing the work was underwritten by the Bartram Association, the John Simon Guggenhteim Memorial Foundation, the Longwood Foundation and eleven individual donors. With this kind of backing, the book could be just what Mr. Harper wanted it to be. Costs were not a factor, editorial direction was not an impediment or a restraint and Yale Press did not care how long the book was.

The plan of the book is an elaborate one. The space given to reproducing the original edition of Bartram's *Travels* in its 1791 form constitutes less than half the length of the book. The present printing of the *Travels* takes up 332 pages for the 522 pages of the original. Mr. Harper reconciles this difference by inserting into the present text the original pages of the first edition in square brackets even if he has to break up a word to do it. Succeeding the Bartram story is a Commentary of 89 pages which is largely the account of Harper's retracing Bartram's route of 1773-7 through modern southeastern United States. This he felt necessary in order to locate in modern, definite locations the various plants, trees and animals which Bartram mentioned.

The Commentary is rough going for Botanist Harper, as well as the reader, but the author never loses courage and approximates

where he cannot be definite. Mr. Harper, with modern maps and local guides, always knew where he was, but he frequently could not locate Bartram. Proof for this claim can be had by reference to pages 371-2 of the Commentary on Bartram's journey from Big Wacasassa River toward Long Pond in northern Florida in June 1774. In a fourteen line paragraph on these pages, Harper is conjecturing where Bartram was. He resorts five different times to vague expressions to cover for his hero: "seems to have extended," "as evident, in part, at least," "perhaps in part," "apparently," and "seems to have been."

The language of the Commentary, since Harper supports his opinions by references to authority is very involved and intricate. The following example illustrates the contention and also shows the author trying to locate where Bartram had been:

> He seems to mention either one too many or one too few crossings of the river. The main path down the Vale of Cowee was evidently on the west side of the river (Hunter's Map of 1730; *Crown Coll.*, ser,2,3: 35, 1910; Drayton, 1821,2: map facing p.343). The crossing in the vicinity of Estatoah Falls must have been from east to west, although the narrative seems to indicate the opposite.

The Commentary is followed by a 240 page Annotated Index. Here again the author refers to the pages in the edition of 1791 rather than to the edition of the *Travels* in the book. This part of the work lists the scientific names of flora and fauna, locations, persons and other index material. In spite of the elaborate detail of this section, Harper later gives a 24 page index to the complete, present volume. The Annotated Index, due to its exact nature, has the curious reader shaking his head, just as he did in the Commentary. When Harper lists a bird by its common name, he then directs the reader to look up the scientific name. The index lists 11 ducks by their common or vulgar names. In each case, the reader is directed to the scientific name in the index. This system of referral obstructs the reader from finding out what he wants to know and tires him out in the search. The reviewer, having read every word of this book, will venture the observation that all readers, even the members of the Bartram Association, are more familiar with the common names of plants and animals than they are with their scientific listings. The readers, amateur and professional, are separated from their curiosity and interest by these professional roadblocks.

In final retrospect on Francis Harper's labor of love, perhaps an observation on William Bartram will not be out of place. William Bartram was a lover of nature in the French fashion of Rousseau, who believed that there was both plan and purpose in nature and humanity and that man could learn much from a study of plants and animals. Before he became a writer of botany, Bartram had been a triple failure in commercial enterprises. His father took him on a trip to Florida in 1765-6. Later, in 1773-7, he undertook his southern journey for a patron, Dr. John Fothergill of London who subsidized the *Travels* at 50 pounds a year and expenses. Bartram was to discover useful plants in the south and send specimens and drawings to Fothergill. He did this for three years until the outbreak of the American Revolution terminated the arrangement. Some of the Bartram drawings and specimens are still in the British Museum. Bartram was advised to keep notebooks of his travels and observations which, in part, he did but we do not have his notes for his four years in the south complete. The *Travels,* thus, were partly written from memory which accounts for wrong dates and location errors.

A reading of the *Travels* quickly shows that Bartram was easily transported by the beauties of nature he saw. He would stop all travel to observe the customs of a bird or an animal and would memorize photographically the technical features of a new plant. He has a great amount of botanical listing of plants and trees he identified. But these appear as whole paragraphs in the text and usually as a sort of summary of what he saw on a day's journey. However, his sharp eye always caught the beauty of the countryside and he rhapsodized in timeless poetic prose things he thought worth passing on to posterity.

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Memphis During the Progressive Era, 1900-1917. By William D. Miller. (Memphis, Memphis State University Press; Madison, American History Research Center, 1957. xiii, 195 pp. Notes, bibliography, index. $4.50.)

THE UNITED STATES should have more loca1 history writing of this caliber. In this book, Professor Miller has given us one of the best balanced, most thoroughly documented, and completely

readable histories of a locality which this reviewer has seen. Though dealing with but a seventeen year span of Memphis history and focusing on the progressive movement, the author introduces his story with a chapter that surveys the decades leading up to 1900 in such a manner as to set the general scene in very satisfying style.

The story is not exclusively political, nor is it a mere catalogue, a chronicle of happenings. It is a well balanced narrative which weaves together the strands of social, economic, and political history in such a compelling way that the reader actually seems to glimpse the physical appearance of the city and its changes; he senses the vibrant and chaotic life of Beale Street with its color, its squalor, its teeming social disorganization; he views with understanding the mixed cultural currents of old South, frontier West, uprooted rural whites, and freed Negroes which unite in an urban melting pot which more often resembles a witches' bubbling cauldron; he vicariously visits the saloons, the gaming houses, and the brothels, and can almost hear, with the author, the old-timers recounting "with pride their personal roles in establishing its reputation for sin"; he watches with satisfaction the growth of city water systems, electricity, gas, sewerage, parks, and a public health authority; and through it all the reader is made to see how temporary, how outward, how ineffective were so many of the "'reforms" of the progressives.

Professor Miller portrays the progressive reform movement as a pragmatic, superficial, and indeed fitful movement which was concerned with forms rather than realities, with symptoms rather than deep-seated causes. He seems to imply that such a movement was bound to leave little permanent change (except in material things) on a city beset with the deeply rooted problems that faced Memphis in the early twentieth century. He draws his story to a close with the rise of Edward H. Crump to power. "Boss" Crump rose on the wave of the progressive movement, which Miller judges to have been but one phase in the man's political career. Though Crump had been moved by the humanitarian aspect of progressivism, its social welfare notions, and its contempt for vested interests and special privilege, he saw that strong leadership would be needed to bring about the desired changes in his reckless, lusty, brawling young city-and he was

willing to forge that leadership. In the doing he improved tremendously the material welfare of Memphis, but he simultaneously nurtured a virtual despotism in city hall which deposed its opponents and persecuted them even after rendering them harmless.

With the coming of World War I the progressive movement dissolved in Memphis and elsewhere and Memphians closed their eyes to local evils in order to see better distant ones. The author closes on a thought-provoking, but depressing, account of the way Memphians brutally burned and dismembered an idiot Negro, suspected of murdering a white child, during the same days that they were attending patriotic rallies to hear that the great issue facing them was the threat of Germany's destroying civilization. "Memphis," Professor Miller concluded, "was still chasing devils in the easy way of the progressive movement, blind to the devil in its own heart."

One more familiar with the sources of Memphis history than is this reviewer might be critical of the author's major reliance on only one newspaper, the *Commercial Appeal*, but he does not seem to have allowed this reliance to cloud his viewpoint or unbalance his judgment.

Floridians will regret that Professor Miller, a native of Florida and a graduate of her University, has not turned his talents to the writing of Florida history. Nonetheless, any prospective writer of local history will do well to examine this volume before beginning his researches.

HERBERT J. DOHERTY, JR.

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Inside the Confederate Government; the Diary of Robert Garlick Hill Kean. Edited by Edward Younger. (New York, Oxford University Press, 1957. xxxvi, 241 pp. Frontispiece. $5.00.)

THIS HITHERTO unpublished manuscript is an important contribution to Confederate history. From now on, one would not dare to write the story of the Confederacy or even make conclusions regarding leaders of the Confederate government without consulting this diary. It joins two other important contemporary accounts, John B. Jones,' *A Rebel War Clerk's Diary* and Mary

Boykin Chesnut's, *A Diary From Dixie*, to form the basis of study of the internal workings of the Confederate government. Robert Garlick Hill Kean, as reflected in his diary, was a well-informed, analytical official who wrote well and who attempted to be honest in his writing.

An attorney, Kean had graduated from the University of Virginia. His wife was formerly Jane Nicholas Randolph, niece of George Wythe Randolph. Kean served in the Home Guard unit of Lynchburg, Virginia, his home town, and began his diary while in the army in September, 1861. For five and-one-half months he wrote of military life, even then showing an analytical mind in military matters. When his uncle (by-marriage), General Randolph, was made Secretary of War, Kean accompanied him to Richmond, where he soon became Head of the Bureau of War. The greater part of the diary covers this period from February, 1862, to April, 1865, while he held the office. The last part of the diary describes the defeat and occupation of the South, and the beginnings of Reconstruction.

The diarist rather confirms many suspicions and conclusions about activities "inside the Confederate government," of which both Chesnut and Jones have informed us. Kean, like the other two, expressed the despair, gloom, and feeling of futility common in Richmond in the late war years. Like the war clerk and Charleston analyst, Kean expressed a very strong tie to his home state, a feeling common in the South and one which weakened the Confederacy. He wrote, "Virginia must fight her own battles, defend as best she may her own soil and in so doing defend the whole eastern part of the Confederacy." Explaining that this could be done if her soldiers were given back to her, Kean declared, "I love her [Virginia] dearer in her days of tribulation than in her prosperity, and while life is spared me I will fight in her behalf as long as a foe is on her soil." Indicating his honesty in not rewriting his diary at a later date, Kean penciled in the margin of the above remark "Alas! Alas!," dated January, 1866. If the value of the Jones and Chesnut works is diminished by their being "gossipy," the value of Kean's work as a description of the internal workings of the government is decreased because of his intense preoccupation with the military, and sometimes wrong conclusions in regard to it. Of course, one suspects after reading Kean's diary, that Jones and Chesnut have no monopoly on gossip.

There is value in the succinct descriptions of personalities of the Confederacy which are found in Kean's diary. Seddon is described as "physically weak . . . a man of clear head, strong sense, and firm character but from long desuetude, wanting in readiness in dispatching business." A pen picture of Judge Campbell is effected by saying of him, "Judge Campbell is invaluable; his capacity of labor infinite; his breadth of view great. His endorsements are so judicial, deciding questions rather than cases [that] they perplex the red tapists who complain that they do not decide the case." Other personalities received the action of Kean's sharp mind and pen.

The diary offers an important contribution by describing the evacuation process and the flight of governmental officials from Richmond. From Kean's description, and if his experience were typical, here were few authoritiative directions or orders given in regard to records and archives in the act of evacuation. Kean confirms the premise that there was a lack of constructive and persevering Confederate statesmanship (especially in the Hampton Roads Peace Conference, but generally throughout the war), that there was an absence of "a Representative *[sic.]* Man *[sic.]*, a leader in the council as well as in the field who should comprehend and express the movement." Kean concluded, "We had no one who approached it." The diarist, in treating of the causes of the South's failure and defeat, asserts that the above was a pervading cause.

Kean is trustworthy, but must be considered as having minor prejudices, whether known or unknown to himself. The reader, for example, cannot help noticing a slight antagonism toward Davis from the beginning. Kean's favoritism for Randolph, a relative and an object of admiration, also creeps through, as does a slight bias toward Campbell. This is to be expected in any diary, of course, but the reader must be aware of these and other slight leanings in order to appraise rightly the writing. Despite these minor prejudices, Kean was usually fair enough to admit in his diary that on occasions he had been wrong. The remark, "I incline to think this suspicion of mine did General Cooper injustice," appearing in the margin beside a charge formerly made against the Adjutant and Inspector General, whom Kean seemed especially to dislike, confirms this honesty.

An additional value of Kean's diary, overlooked by some of the reviewers, is the last section, which concerns the emancipation in Virginia; its effect on the labor supply, on the Negro, the planters, and the beginning of Reconstruction, when "the most intricate and variously conditioned of all social problems is dealt with off hand by petty officials, mere youths, without enlightenment or culture and profoundly ignorant of the subject over which they assume to legislate."

The editing of Professor Younger increases the value of the diary. His commendable introductions, footnotes, bracketed explanations and index make the work more readable and usable. All Civil War historians, especially, are indebted to him for making this diary available.

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